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NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES

RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1952



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RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1952

Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—47,011 acres.
Population—4,451.
Number of inhabited houses—1,502.
Rateable Value—£19,068.
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate—£80.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The area is essentially rural, agriculture being the main industry throughout. Salmon fishing is well developed along the whole length of the Tweed in the district, and provides a livelihood for many families in the Ord, Horncliffe and Norham areas. Coalmining gives employment to several hundred men in the Scremerston section of the district.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total. Male. Female.			
Live Births	Legitimate	59	35	24	Birthrate per 1000 Population—14.38
	Illegitimate	5	2	3	
Still Births	Legitimate	2	2	0	Rate per 1000 Population—.45
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Deaths	... ..	54	23	31	Rate per 1000 Population—12.13

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—Nil.

„ „ other Puerperal causes—Nil.

This shows a decrease of 11 births and 20 deaths on 1951.

Death Rate of Infants under one year—

All infants (per 1000 live births)—15.56.

Legitimate infants (per 1000 legitimate live births)—16.9.

Illegitimate infants—Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—7.

„ „ Measles—Nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough—Nil.

„ „ Diarrhoea—Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer (part-time) Herbert F. Park, M.B., Ch.B.,
Norham.

Sanitary Inspector N. Senior, M.S.I.A., East Ord.

Laboratory Facilities County Laboratory, Newcastle.

Ambulance Facilities.—These are provided under the National Health Service, the depot being at Berwick. Both ambulances and sitting cars are available, and the depot has given excellent service.

Nursing.—This also comes under the National Health Service, and District Nurses are resident in Berwick, Scremerston, Norham and Cornhill.

Hospitals.—There are no hospitals actually in this area. Those which serve our district are:—Berwick Infirmary (General), Marshall Meadows (Infectious), Castle Hills (Maternity).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—Generally speaking, there is little change in the situation, and, until very drastic steps are taken, this will be the Council's greatest difficulty and retard building operations.

Cornhill.—Owing to the failure to get approval to various schemes presented, the Council last year decided to acquire and carry on with the existing local supply. Negotiations have not yet been completed, and the position is not completely settled.

Norham and Horncliffe areas continue to be watered from the Thornton supply. This has been satisfactory, but, owing to the increasing demand, the Council have installed a new electric pump, which is now in operation.

Fenwick.—In this locality the Council proposed to augment the supply by boring at Kyloe, and to connect with the Haggerston supply. The scheme, however, has not received the assent of the Ministry and is still in abeyance.

Holy Island.—Here the Council have sunk a borehole and have hopes that this will prove successful in solving the Island's difficulties. Water has been obtained and analysed, and found satisfactory. Pumping tests are still being carried out to test both quality and quantity.

Duddo.—The supply is inadequate in this area, and the Council are at present investigating means of increasing it.

East Ord and Scremerston.—Here the difficulties have been solved by providing supplies from the Berwick Borough.

Loanend and West Ord.—This section is still in urgent need of a piped supply, and this also applies to the **Castle Heaton and Twizell** areas.

Norham Mains has been connected to the Thornton system, and all the houses there are now supplied with water and drainage.

There is no treatment carried out to the Council's water supplies.

Drainage and Sewage.—There have been on major changes during the year, the improvement to Scremerston and East Ord systems being still in process.

Scavenging.—The present system of collection of household refuse by waggon continues to be satisfactory, and the tips used are properly supervised and kept in order.

Rivers and Streams.—There is no gross pollution of streams in this area.

Housing is still an acute problem in parts of the area. The delay in construction of the new houses at Cornhill may soon be ended. Meanwhile the Council contemplate taking over the Hostel Buildings at Cornhill and converting them into dwelling houses. This will produce nine houses and will relieve the situation meanwhile.

PARISHES WITH PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Number of Houses	Houses with W.C.s	Houses with Baths	Houses with Standpipe supply only
Norham ...	216	170	150	2
Norham Mains ...	11	9	9	2
Horncliffe ...	87	69	62	1
Loanend ...	24	9	9	12
Shoreswood ...	44	30	30	14
Duddo ...	31	28	28	3
Felkington ...	18	16	16	2
Thornton ...	29	18	18	2
Grindon ...	18	2	2	12
Longridge ...	18	6	2	8
Kyloe ...	174	69	53	85
Ancroft ...	353	160	154	170
Holy Island ...	106	22	14	103
Twizell ...	43	13	14	22
Ord ...	129	75	71	37
Cornhill ...	141	39	26	72
Totals ...	1442	735	658	547

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified		Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	9	9	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—
Measles	17	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	11	—	—	—
Cerebral Fever	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—

Food Poisoning.—No cases were notified during the year 1952.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. J. Park

M.O.H.

Cross House,
Norham-on-Tweed.
May, 1953.

Annual Report of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1952

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1938, I herewith submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Public Health Act, 1936.

Part Two. Sanitation and Buildings	...	...	51
Part Three. Nuisances	..	...	10
Part Four. Water Supplies	...	...	84
Part Five. Notifiable Diseases	...	...	10
Total Visits, etc.	155

Housing Act, 1936.

Part Two. Inspection of Insanitary Houses	...	14
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Food and Drugs Act, 1938	—
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Visits in connection with infestations and ad- ministration	54
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Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

Visits in connection with the storage of petrol	26
	<hr/>
Total	249

Other Visits and Inspections.

(1)	Council House Repairs	...	...	...	120
(2)	Tradesmen re above	...	...	...	34
(3)	Control of Civil Building and Building Bye-law Inspections	...	...	...	110
(4)	Town and Country Planning Act, 1947	...			59
(5)	Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews, etc.		...		50
	Total	...	...		373
					<hr/>
	Total Visits, Inspections, Interviews, etc.	...			622

Number of Notices served during the Year.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	44
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	1

Result of Service of such Notices.

(1)	Sanitary Conveniences — Repair or provision of W.C.s	...	...	...	...	26
(2)	Renewal of Sanitary Dustbins	...	...	...	...	9
(3)	Drains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	13
(4)	Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :					
	Major rodent infestation cleared	...	...	...	...	1

Food Condemned None

Samples for Analysis.

	Total.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory
Water—Chemical	4	1	3
Bacteriological	14	10	4

COMMENTARY**Scavenging.**

Refuse collection and disposal has been maintained as in recent years, despite various mishaps to the Bedford vehicle, causing operative working time to be curtailed on a number of occasions. As this work is yearly growing owing to the additional number of premises to be visited since the initiation of the scheme, a new refuse collection vehicle is immediately essential.

WATER SUPPLIES**Scremerston Village.**

The new 4-inch main carrying water from Berwick Corporation Reservoir to Scremerston village has been laid, and the service is satisfactory. However, this has only been possible due to the generosity of a neighbouring rural authority loaning the District Council the water pipes needed.

Thornton.

The new electrical pumping equipment has been installed at Thornton and is working satisfactorily. For the first time for years the undertaking can now overtake demand with ease.

Holy Island.

The borehole on the Island has been pump-tested for 14 consecutive days, and the results are highly pleasing. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has now intimated that the District Council can proceed with all speed to develop the supply, and this ensuing year should see the result of so many years' endeavour.

Cornhill.

The acquisition of the Estate supply is still very tardy, but until this is done the question of development at Cornhill, so urgently needed for many years, will remain in abeyance. However, it is gratifying to learn that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has taken a kinder second view of the District Council's application for loan consent, and the following year should show more progress in the matter than in previous years.

Building Licences.

Throughout the year 16 applications for building licences were received, and all were approved.

Plans.

Forty-five plans were deposited with the District Council throughout the year. Forty-two of these were approved, and three were rejected.

Disinfection.

All premises where infectious diseases have occurred have been disinfected during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

52, Ravensdowne,
Berwick-upon-Tweed.
August, 1953.

